

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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**Weather:** Precipitation picked up across the State this past week, with significant and measurable rainfall. Many counties in eastern Oregon experienced the rainfall earlier in the week, with warmer and drier conditions near the end of the week. Snow showers again visited the Klamath Basin and were noted in Lake County. Higher elevation areas in Union County also recorded some snowfall. Several parts of Malheur County received in excess of half an inch of rain last week. Almost an inch of rain for the week in Morrow County improved topsoil moisture there. Some coastal areas received nearly three inches of rain, while Eugene received nearly two inches. Average temperatures were generally in the fifties for western Oregon and in the mid-to-upper forties in eastern Oregon. Medford recorded a high temperature of 86 degrees, highest for the week.

**Field Crops:** Grain crops in general looked good and the rain was a big help over much of the State. In western Oregon, nearly all grains were seeded. Some grass seed fields were fertilized. A little rust detected in a few perennial ryegrass and mint fields. Clover showed excellent growth. Alfalfa looked good and in some areas reported to be 3-4 weeks ahead of normal. Some reports that second year clovers were cut for silage already. In eastern Oregon, rainfall, although very erratic, followed by warmer temperatures, provided the needed spark for slow growing wheat to pick up the pace and helped with spring grain emergence. Spring wheat and barley seeding was nearing completion in north central areas. Irrigation season has started in Klamath County and some barley crops have emerged. Corn planting started in Malheur County. In northeast Oregon, cooler, wetter weather helped dryland crops but slowed some fieldwork. A variety of farming operations were underway, from plowing to planting to testing irrigation equipment.

**Vegetables:** Spring rains fell across the State accompanied by cooler temperatures. Eastern areas reported near freezing temperatures. In the Willamette Valley, vegetable planting was underway between showers. Rhubarb harvest continued in Wasco, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Jackson County reported early sweet corn was being seeded and field preparation was on-going.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries continue to ship plant material to the eastern states, mainly balled and burlapped plants and containers. Local greenhouses are supplying retail outlets with spring plants. Spring plant sales by community groups are underway; the Portland area had over 30 sales last weekend. Christmas tree planting about done and bud break has started or is very close for most species. The warm temperatures are requiring nurseries to start irrigation.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Willamette Valley strawberries were in bloom; raspberries were growing vigorously and should bloom soon. Blueberries were past bloom and fruit was beginning to size. Caneberries had mostly leafed out. Prunes were starting to size. Yamhill County codling moth emergence began last week, three weeks earlier than last year. Wasco County cherry trees were nearly all leafed-out and early cherries were about pea size. Frost fans operated several nights last week.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Scattered precipitation and cooler temperatures across eastern Oregon slowed pasture growth and generally helped to improve rangeland and pasture conditions. Many areas now reporting rangeland in fair to good condition. Calving season neared completion with many cattle producers branding and turning pairs out. Sheep producers were busy with shearing. Livestock were reported in good condition in western Oregon with pastures providing good feed supplies.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 4/25/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	82	76	67	81
Barley emerged (%)	52	45	43	--
Spring wheat planted (%)	92	87	87	91
Spring wheat emerged (%)	71	58	51	--
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.2	5.4	--	--

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 4/25/04**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	4	18	72	6
Subsoil (%)	2	25	68	5

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 4/25/04**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	5	36	46	12
Barley (%)	1	2	22	61	14
Range & Pasture (%)	2	5	31	53	9

## WESTERN OREGON

**CLACKAMAS:** Some welcome rains during the week. Grain and hay crops growing normal. Still some weed control being applied. Strawberries blooming. Raspberries growing vigorously; bloom just around the corner. Vegetable planting underway between showers. Rhubarb harvest continues. Spring nursery and greenhouse sales continue and are very active. Livestock are in good condition as pastures are providing good feed supplies.

**COOS/CURRY:** Wet weather continued for the first half of the week, but drying conditions (warm weather with breezes) was prevalent the last half of the week. Low temperatures for the week were near normal, but highs were substantially above average for both Coos and Curry counties.

**JACKSON:** Light rains over last several days helped relieve dry soils. Nearly all grains have been seeded and so has most alfalfa. Early sweet corn being seeded. Fields prepared for other crops.

**JOSEPHINE:** Beautiful weather this week. Cool mornings with warm afternoons. Rain early in the week was measurable. Sales are brisk in nurseries. They are covering perishables at night that are outside houses. Greenhouses are safe without heat. Everything continues to bloom; all native trees, shrubs and bulbs, as well as domestic. Blueberries continue to bloom but the weather hasn't been too good for bees. Have seen only a very few working. Bumblebees have been working, however. Most blueberry farmers have their own hives here and daytime temperatures are warming up, so maybe they will be out and about now.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Nice rain! The statistics gathered for weather averages for the 2003-04 season certainly are going to be made up of some extremes. Mint and grass seed continues to grow. Grass seed fields are still being fertilized. Prunes are starting to size and most setting. Pears, cherries, and peaches look like a very large crop. Fruit fertilization of many fruits is still in question. A lot of rain during full bloom. Apples are in full bloom, with 75 percent over. Blueberries at end of bloom and fruit sizing. Blackberries and raspberries have nice growth. Strawberries are blooming. Crops going in ASAP. Soil still wet from last rain but drying. It has rained the last three days and sun is forecasted for the next four days, so more planting soon. Many growers were putting out irrigation pipe; now not needed quite as soon with the rain. Greenhouse and nursery crops going full tilt.

**MARION:** Rain showers the past ten days have been welcome; still could use a little more. Seeing a little rust in a few perennial ryegrass fields. Not a lot of spraying yet. Mint fields showing some rust; fungicide applications will get underway with dry weather. Most field crops looking fairly good at this point. Strawberries are in full bloom; looking good. Unusually warm April weather continues. Plant growth and crop maturation ahead of normal for most crops.

**WASHINGTON:** Grasses beginning to head. Clover has excellent growth. Alfalfa looks good. Grains looking good. Some strawberries blooming; caneberries have mostly leafed-out. Rhubarb doing well. Digging, rotating, and planting. Rain during week helped. Over 2.3 inches fell over the week.

**YAMHILL:** Codling moth emergence began this week, three weeks earlier than last year. Three inches of rain in the last week reported. Rust in perennial ryegrass and vigorous tall fescue because of the warm weather this spring. Tree fruit crops off to a good start. Crops in general are looking good and the rain this last week was a big help as it was getting pretty dry. Alfalfa was reported to be 3 to 4 weeks ahead of normal but grass seed was about on schedule. Some reports are that second year clovers had been cut for silage already.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Seeding and irrigation continued. Seed cutting underway for potatoes. Planting by the end of the week. Branding continued; some turnout.

**GILLIAM:** Additional rainfall early in week; warmer days in the latter part, helped spring grain emergence. Spring seeded fields with inadequate moisture in seed zone two weeks ago are now emerging and looking good.

**HARNEY:** Some irrigation being turned on alfalfa and spring grains. Meadows being irrigated. Spring fieldwork still being done. Livestock being branded and turned out. Rain and cool temperatures beginning of week. Warmer towards weekend. Pairs are being turned out. Rain and snow on Wednesday was badly needed.

**KLAMATH:** Cooler temperatures remained during the early part of the week. Rain and snow showers visited the Basin during the middle portion of the week. We also saw overnight temperatures in the twenties. Spring planting continued and the irrigation season began. Some barley crops have emerged; pastures are starting to grow and the alfalfa looked good.

**LAKE:** Cooler temperatures during the week, warmer on the weekend. Minimal precipitation in the form of snow and hail during the week.

**MALHEUR:** Some areas received over half an inch of rain last week. Water is flowing in all irrigation systems. The fruit trees got "nipped" last week. Warmer weather predicted for this week should get all systems back to normal. Ontario reported 0.9 inches of rain from a storm earlier in the week. All crops still look good. Temperatures last week about normal. Corn planting started. Cattle condition good. Range condition fair-to-good. Some ranges still dry.

**MORROW:** We got between 0.8 and 1.0 inches of rain last week and it is continuing to rain off and on. The little rains we are getting now are really allowing the moisture to go down, and should prove to be very beneficial as it warms back up. Things are definitely looking better as far as moisture content.

**SHERMAN:** Ponds still short on water for livestock and wildlife. Showers during the week, followed by warm temperatures, provided needed spark for slow growing wheat. Showers very erratic, going from feast to famine in less than a half mile in many cases. Cooler temperatures and sporadic showers kept field work at a minimum last week. Spring tillage was also held up due to wetter conditions.

**UMATILLA:** Cooler, wetter weather has helped all dryland crops.

**UNION:** Weather started with cool temperatures and overcast skies, but very little in the way of rainfall, except for isolated thunderstorm-like squalls. However, by the middle of the week, this gave way to widespread rainfall and cold winds. Then, by the end of the week, skies were clear and sunny with very warm daytime temperatures, but still with near freezing conditions in the early morning hours. Fieldwork has slowed due to wet weather. Calving season is essentially over. Some ranchers still feeding hay as they wait for spring grasses to fill out. Range conditions are looking good, especially with this week's rainfall. However, some snowfall in the higher elevations, as well as early morning frosts even at valley floors, may slow development of some pasture areas. A variety of farming operations were underway this week. Everything from plowing to planting was being done and irrigation systems are being pressurized and tested in preparation for use in the coming weeks. Those who use flood irrigation or ditches for their water supply have also opened up the floodgates. Local gardeners are preparing their garden plots and purchasing supplies but only the very daring are actually planting yet.

**WALLOWA:** Snow and rain during the week helped with the moisture problems, but the colder weather did not help with spring growth. Some warmer weather would be nice, but put it with some rain, too, and we'll be happy. Range is still waiting for the warmer weather to get going.

**WASCO:** Approximately five days were open for fieldwork. So far we have avoided major freeze problems and we are not past the average last date of frost. Fruit set on cherries looks excellent. Rain showers occurred several days, adding a quarter-to-half inch of moisture to the topsoil. Temperatures at night reached from frost to low fifties, while daytime temperatures ranged from mid fifties to high seventies. Moldboard plowing is in full swing. Spring wheat and barley seeding nearing completion. The current rains will aid crop germination. Alfalfa crops putting on growth, but no buds yet. Rhubarb starting to be harvested and strawberries are in bloom. Most fruit blooms had all dropped by end of week. Cherry trees nearly all leafed out and early cherries are about the size of peas. Frost fans were operated several nights. Grass mowing under fruit trees was active through the week. Beef cattle are doing well on lush grasses. A few late heifers still calving and sheep shearing in progress.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 25, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	77	50	2	8	1	1.48	0.54	4	55.86	-2.15	96	155
Crescent City	40	65	53	2	21	-6	0.84	-0.03	2	51.75	-7.39	88	127
Florence	34	77	49	-1	9	-5	2.73	1.66	4	65.81	-1.73	97	149
North Bend	43	68	51	1	8	-6	2.64	1.72	3	60.76	3.84	107	144
Tillamook	32	71	49	1	3	-4	2.80	1.58	6	73.28	-3.70	95	161
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	36	79	52	3	19	-1	1.17	0.66	3	28.29	-9.56	75	111
Eugene	36	73	50	-2	6	-16	1.88	1.27	3	34.78	-9.09	79	124
Hillsboro	34	79	51	0	13	-8	0.76	0.34	5	27.71	-5.01	85	130
McMinnville	32	80	50	-1	11	-10	0.63	0.14	3	29.37	-9.40	76	127
Portland AP	38	81	54	3	28	2	0.46	-0.03	4	25.75	-5.01	84	124
Salem	36	78	51	1	12	-6	1.28	0.79	4	33.76	-0.58	98	133
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	38	72	52	-3	21	-18	0.89	0.54	4	26.70	-1.74	94	103
Medford	38	86	54	2	29	-4	0.41	0.17	4	17.73	1.36	108	101
Roseburg AP	40	82	52	0	25	-6	1.26	0.81	4	30.48	1.37	105	122
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	31	64	45	-2	0	-7	0.37	0.09	5	13.74	3.24	131	76
Heppner	33	66	48	-2	5	-16	0.69	0.41	5	10.99	0.66	106	100
Hermiston AP	32	73	50	-4	9	-25	0.33	0.19	4	8.07	0.91	113	73
John Day	30	72	46	-3	2	-12	0.45	0.17	4	7.65	-1.12	87	89
Moro	30	66	47	-1	2	-12	0.47	0.33	4	9.57	0.67	108	75
Pendleton AP	35	73	50	-2	10	-18	0.48	0.27	3	10.30	0.91	110	78
The Dalles	34	78	54	5	27	10	0.35	0.21	4	12.21	1.85	118	91
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	26	62	42	-4	0	-12	0.24	0.10	3	10.54	1.62	118	68
Burns AP	26	70	45	0	0	-7	0.16	0.02	2	6.89	-0.11	98	68
Klamath Falls	28	74	44	-3	5	-9	0.32	0.18	3	10.59	-0.32	97	87
Lakeview	23	70	44	-2	2	-5	0.05	-0.23	2	8.17	-3.81	68	51
Redmond	25	74	45	-2	0	-13	0.15	0.01	4	7.26	1.21	120	70
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	26	69	44	-3	0	-14	0.44	0.23	3	4.95	-1.64	75	69
Joseph	28	66	42	0	0	-3	0.67	0.25	4	9.06	-9.84	48	89
La Grande AP	30	68	46	-3	1	-14	0.66	0.31	4	8.42	-4.30	66	76
Union	33	65	46	-2	0	-14	0.78	0.50	4	9.65	0.81	109	93
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	36	72	52	-2	18	-20	0.68	0.54	3	6.89	-0.62	92	54
Rome	30	73	48	-1	4	-17	0.53	0.35	3	4.29	-1.06	80	53

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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